



New Mexico Human Services Department

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Date: June 30, 2011

To: Salud!/SCI Managed Care Contractors

From: Cathy Rocke, Bureau Chief, CAB *CR*
Nancy Smith-Leslie, Bureau Chief, INM! *AL*

RE: Letter of Direction # 40
Coding/Procedure Options for Opioid Addiction Treatment with Suboxone

In order to standardize the billing process for Salud! physical health providers and for SCI physical and behavioral health providers, this Letter of Direction serves to clarify the coding and procedures to be followed during the assessment, induction and follow-up/maintenance phases provided for the treatment of opioid addiction using Suboxone. The Salud!/SCI contractors are encouraged to use best efforts to contract with all certified providers and to encourage other providers in their network to obtain DATA 2000 waiver certification.

Assessment Phase:

During the Assessment phase, providers are encouraged to use appropriate Evaluation and Management (E & M) codes. Providers must document their time and activity in the member's chart. All E&M codes will be paid at the Medicaid Fee Schedule rate. If the certified provider accepts the member for opioid addiction treatment using Suboxone, the provider must send notification via facsimile or secure e-mail to the Salud!/SCI contractors' utilization management departments prior to the induction phase. Claims will not be paid for inductions performed without prior notification.

Note: Lab tests would be billed in addition to the codes.

Typical Diagnoses (ICD-9-CM):

- 304.0** Opioid type dependence
- 305.7** Combination of opioid abuse with other

Induction Phase:

IICPCS code H0033 is to be used for the Induction and reimbursed at \$300.00 per the Medicaid Fee Schedule. This code will go into effect for dates of service on or after July 1, 2011 and will not be retroactively paid. This code will not be reimbursed for other diagnoses or treatment.

Follow-Up/Maintenance Phase:

Each additional visit would be billed using an E&M code appropriate to the level of service and time spent. Documentation must include the start/end time and subject of the counseling if the counseling time is more than 50% of the total visit length. There will be no limit on the number of additional visits that may be billed. The E&M codes shall be paid at the Medicaid Fee Schedule rate.

Provider Education:

The Salud!/SCI contractors shall provide a copy of this Letter of Direction to all contracted, certified providers. The Provider Services representatives will be available for clarification of this process. As new Suboxone certified providers enter the contractors' networks, they will be provided this Letter of Direction by the contractors.

Waiving Timely Filing for Appeals:

The Salud!/SCI contractors shall notify all contracted, certified providers who have received denials for providing opioid addiction treatment with Suboxone to members with confirmed enrollment in the Salud! or SCI programs within the State Fiscal Year 2011, that they may appeal the denials.